

**Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the November 14, 2012 Meeting**

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Chairman Rick Baldoni called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Conference Room, which was attended by Commissioners Ingrid Boelhouwer, Rick Doran, William Knapp, Ralph Moyer, Robert Pulford and Rebecca Zalznock. Also in attendance was Christopher Shepard, Director of the Nature Center.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for October 10, 2012 were reviewed and on a Motion by R. Moyer, Seconded by R. Duran, and approved unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The update of the Open Space Inventory assigned to the Commissioners is nearing completion.
- b. B. Knapp updated the Commission on the status of the DiCioccio Brothers application for development of a parcel on Elm Street. The applicant withdrew their appeal from the Superior Court for the Zoning Board of Appeals rejection of their application; and did not pursue an appeal of the Planning and Zoning Commission rejection.
- c. B. Knapp updated the Commission on the recent Town Council meeting regarding comments on bids for the proposed sale of the Wilkus Farm parcel at 138 Willow Street. Three bids were considered and included residents (Phillip & Cynthia Rouquie), a farmer (Richard Nowak) and a developer (Ron Drisdelle). The Commission is in favor of the Nowak concept to promote the continuation of farming in keeping with the referendum decision of 2009 for the Town to purchase the Wilkus parcels. No information is available as to when the Town Council will render a decision.

III. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission had a general discussion regarding the Conservation Commission powers and duties as defined by the Town Code, Article II, §10-7 which reads as follows:

The Conservation Commission shall conduct researches into the utilization and possible utilization of land areas of the Town and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes and may advertise, prepare and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets as necessary for its purposes. It shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas and may, from time to time, recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission plans and programs for the development and use of such areas, which may include the acquisition of conservation easements. Subject to the approval of the Town Council, the Commission may receive gifts and acquire land in the name of the Town for any of its purposes set forth in C.G.S. § 7-131a and shall administer such gifts for such purposes subject to the terms of the gift.

The Commissioners discussed the lack of Town Council's inclusion of the Conservation Commission for input on the sale, purchases or change of uses on town land, or the proposed uses of undeveloped lands. The Commissioners discussed the need to direct the Commission's Liaison to inform Town Council of our duties. The Commissioners also discussed the need to keep apprised of meeting Agendas for the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Chairman Baldoni adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM, so moved by R. Moyer and seconded by R. Doran.

Respectfully submitted by

Rebecca M. Zalznock